(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) wheher there is a need for developing post-harvest technologies, to reduce wastage of food products;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to prevent wastage of perishable food items and to encourage investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY):(a) and (b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) with the intention to make concerted efforts for development and growth of food processing sector, is encouraging states to frame Food Processing Industrial Policy for their respective states. This will facilitate the states to create enabling environment for creating rural infrastructure, raise level of processing and generate farm level employment keeping in view their distinct agro climatic scenario and availability of rural infrastructure.

(c) to (e) According to the Vision 2015 Report (April 2005) prepared by Rabo India Finance Pvt. Ltd., wastage of Agricultural food items (including fruits) is estimated to be about Rs. 58,000 crore annually, occurring at various stages of handling after harvesting due to lack of adequate post-harvest infrastructure, lack of cold chain facilities, transportation, proper storage facilities etc.

Government has formulated and implemented several Plan Schemes to provide financial assistance for the establishment and modernization of food processing units, creation of infrastructure, support for R&D, human resource development besides other promotional measures aimed at reducing wastages, enhancing value addition and increasing shelf life.

MFPI has submitted a proposal on Mega Food Park scheme for 11th Plan to Planning Commission. The scheme aims to provide a mechanism to bring together farmers, processors and retailers and link agricultural production to the market so as to ensure maximization of value addition, minimization of wastages and improving farmers' income. Mega Food Park envisages a well-defined agri/horticultural-processing zone containing state of the art processing facilities with support infrastructure and well established supply chain. The primary objective of the scheme is to facilitate establishment of an integrated value chain, with processing at the core and supported by requisite forward and backward linkages. Further, a proposal on comprehensive Cold Chain Infrastructure Scheme for 11th Plan has been submitted to Planning Commission for creating integrated cold chain infrastructure at different levels-farm level primary processing centre-cum-cold chain, collection/aggregation centers and Strategic Distribution Centers. The initiative being undertaken by the Ministry are aimed at filling the gaps in the supply chain, strengthening of cold chain infrastructure leading to overall development of food processing industries and reduction in wastages.

Food processing industries in villages

†933. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any scheme to encourage food processing industries in villages as the development of agriculture in the country can be expedited

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

through food processing sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the schemes formulated by Government for processing of horticultural products in villages; and

(d) the steps taken to give information to the farmers about the food processing industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (d) A developed food processing industry would not only reduce the wastages, but would also increasingly fetch remunerative income to farmers. For promotion of food processing industries, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance for Establishment, Technology upgradation, and Modernization of food processing units in the country including in villages, in the form of grant-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of plant and machninery and technical civil works subject to maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in General Areas or 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in Difficult Areas such as Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and North Eastern States, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and ITDP Areas. Under the Mini Mission IV of Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States including Sikkim, J&K, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, assistance at still higher rates i.e. @ 50% upto Rs. 4 crores for setting up of new food processing units and upto Rs. 1 crore for upgradation/modernization of existing units is available for processing of horticultural produce.

In the 11th Plan, the Ministry proposes to implement a revamped Scheme for Infrastructure Development under which, it will give financial assistance for setting up of Mega Food Parks, cold chain infrastructure, value added centres and packaging centres. The Mega Food Park Scheme will provide backward and forward linkages as well as relaible and sustainable supply chain. The Cluster based demand driven approach will provide linkages from farm to market with linkages from local to regional level through Primary Processing Centres, Collection Centres, Strategic Distribution Centre-cum-Cold Chain at critical locations - having Controlled Atmosphere storage and distribution centres where large quantities can be stored and supplied to distribution centres for fresh sale and to processing industries for processing.The emphasis will be on building strong linkages with rural agriculture and horticulture, enhancing project implementation capabilities, increased involvent of private sector investments and support for creation of rural infrastruture to ensure a steady supply of good quality agri horticulture produce both for domestic processing industries and cunsumers. The scheme aims at, *inter-alia,* promoting processing of agri horticultural produce at villages, provide a mechnaism to bring together farmers, processors and retailers and link agricultural production to the

market so as to ensure maximization of value additon, minimization of wastages and improving farmers' income. Processing industries and retailers can provide the necessary demand for the agricultural produce and encourage a flow of market information, technology and inputs to the farmers so that he can tailor his output to the needs of the market and in the process raise his own level of income and employment. The Ministry's schemes are widely publicized through media including in vernacular media.

In the 11th Plan, it has also been proposed to continue assistance in the form of grant to private sector/public sector organisations through schemes for setting up of Food Testing Labs, Implementation of Quality Systems such as HACCP, ISO 9000, GHP and GMP Practices, Promotion of Research and Development, Capacity building and Human Resource Development and other promotional activities with higher levels of assistance. In addition, a new scheme for Upgradation of Quality of street foods is also being implemented.

FPIs in Uttarakhand

†934. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of food processing units established in Uttarakhand during the last five years; and

(b) the details regarding total capacity of food processing available in this State and the details of plan of action formulated for use of this capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) As food processing industries are both in the organized and unorganized sectors, information on total number of food processing industries established in the country including in Uttarakhand, the details regarding total capacity, capacity utilization, etc. are not centrally maintained in the Ministry of Food Processing Industries. However, the Ministry received 46 applications for setting up/modernization/expansion of food processing units in Uttarakhand during the last five year period from 2002-03 to 2006-07, out of which 24 units were sanctioned with a total amount of Rs. 681.097 lakhs.

Incentives to food processing industries

935. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the incentives sanctioned to the food processing industries by the UPA Government;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.